



United States
Department of
Agriculture



malheur national forest **ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT, 2013**



for the greatest good

MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Recreation, Engineering, Lands and Minerals (RELM)

Special Uses Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

Managed the Lands Program by accomplishing the program of work described below.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Met 2013 NFLM Target of 26 inspections
- NEPA completed for the following projects:
 - Austin Water Cooperative Special Use Permit Renewal
 - Grant County Geological Marker Special Use Permit Renewal
 - Eisiminger Drain Field Special Use Permit Renewal
 - DR Johnson-Bernhard Cultivation Special Use Permit
 - Middle Fork John Day Gauging Station Relocation
 - Oregon Telephone Corporation Fiber Optic Line Replacement
 - Oregon Trail Electric Consumers Cooperative Power Line Extension (Izee Hwy)
 - Oregon Department of Transportation Aldrich Communication Site Tower Replacement
- Additional Project Management:
 - Oregon State Police Aldrich Communication Lease Reassignment
 - Oregon Trail Electric Consumers Cooperative Hazard Tree Mitigation on Emigrant Creek Ranger District within the 10-year Stewardship Project Area
 - Oregon Trail Electric Consumers Cooperative Pole Structure Replacement on Emigrant Creek, Blue Mountain, and Prairie City Ranger Districts (56 structures total)
 - Idaho Power Hazard Tree Mitigation on Blue Mountain District
 - Eisiminger Small Tracts Act review, analysis and decision
 - CenturyLink Passive Reflector Removal – Thompson Butte Communication Site
 - Oregon Public Broadcasting Hazard Tree Mitigation at Devine Ridge Communication Site
 - Washington Office site visit and drafted Communication Site Plans for Dixie Butte, Aldrich Mountain, Fall Mountain, Devine Ridge and King Mountain Communication Sites
 - Grant County Special Use Permits (4) conversion to single road easement (County Road 63) initiation with Land Zone
 - Johnson Road Easement initiation with Land Zone
 - Voigt Ditch Bill Easement negotiations commenced with Land Zone
 - Oregon Department of Transportation Hazard Tree Mitigation at the Austin Maintenance Yard
 - Fielded 3 forest road access requests

Key Projects in Progress

- Oregon Department of Transportation Aldrich Communication Site Tower Replacement equipment migration January 2014
- Oregon Telephone Corporation Fiber Optic Line Replacement to commence Spring of 2014
- Oregon Trail Electric Structure Pole Replacement on Emigrant Creek & Blue Mountain to commence Spring of 2014

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Recreation, Engineering, Lands and Minerals (RELM) Minerals Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

Managed the Minerals Program by accomplishing the program of work described below.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Met NFMG 2013 targets
- Performed 53 forest wide locatable site inspections
- Processed 4 Notices of Intent to Mine
- Fielded over 20 forest mining inquires/walk-ins
- Processed 15 mineral material permits
- Monitored 1 Geological Hazard and 1 Geological Resource
- Extended 1 Minerals Plan of Operation (Phoenix Mine) for an additional mining season
- Mitigated 1 abandoned mine (Idol City) safety hazard
- Worked with Blue Mountain Ranger District to ensure miners were notified of the Galena and Big Mosquito
- Inventoried potential abandoned mining lands mitigation sites
- Developed a forest wide rock pit information data sheet
- Closed case on one unauthorized use of cabin

Key Projects in Progress

- Boulder Group initial review for AML funding
- Analysis of 2 Notices of Intent to Mine
- New Plan of Operation of full reclamation for Phoenix Mine

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Wilderness, Trails, and Recreation Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

Despite markedly diminished recreation funding we brought to fruition a number of special recreation projects. We provided public recreation opportunities within two Wildernesses, two Wild and Scenic Rivers, 1,226 miles of terra and snowmobile trails, 49 developed campgrounds, recreation rentals and trailheads, four Special Use Permits, and numerous dispersed camping sites.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Idlewild Snow-Park completed; Blue Mountain Summit Snow-Park initiated
- Constructed new trailhead at W. Myrtle Creek with Backcountry Horsemen volunteers
- Mitigated an inordinate number of hazard trees at developed campgrounds through small timber sales
- Completed planning for the 2014 National Visitor Use Monitoring Survey
- Collaborated with local agencies and citizenry on recreation projects including the Blue Mountain Snow-Park, Summit-Logan, Wolf and Mosquito Collaborative Planning, Lake Creek Youth camp, SVRR bike trail and four local snowmobile chapters
- Documents: Wild and Scenic monitoring; Invasive Species EIS draft
- Recreation Forest Protection Officer's aided law enforcement by incorporating patrols with regular duties by issuing Notice of Violations for non-payment of fees and writing unsolved Incident Reports for non-weed free hay, destruction of government property, cutting green larch, larch cut out of season and initiated investigations on possible residing or over staying camp limits
- IDT for Davis Creek Trail reconstruction convenes, surveys trail, and prepares resource stories preparing for major reconstruction in 2014
- Sumpter Valley rails to trails project initiated with multiple meetings. Shelved for smaller scale project out of Sumpter for initial project and evaluation
- Completed four assigned trail surveys including a stellar 37 mile bike loop trail.



ECRD and Backcountry Horsemen reconstruct Myrtle Creek trailhead

Partnerships Involved

The Malheur National Forest (MNF) recreation program success was achieved by working with a number of volunteer organizations and individuals. Volunteers manned campgrounds at Magone, Idlewild, Yellow Jacket and Delintment Lake. Trail work was accomplished in partnership with Backcountry Horsemen, Oregon Equestrian Trails and private individuals. Wilderness campsites and invasive species inventories progressed via partnership with North Fork John Day Watershed Council crews.

Wild and Scenic River monitoring for Malheur and North Fork Malheur Rivers completed



Key Projects in Progress

Projects in progress include National Visitor Use Monitoring Survey, Forest Plan Revision, Invasive Species EIS, Travel Management, Davis Creek Trail reconstruction, grant preparation for 2014 season and Wolf and Mosquito collaborative.

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Facilities Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

The Facilities Group continued its work maintaining nearly 300,000 square feet of administrative buildings. Work this year focused on eliminating deferred maintenance and closing out prior year projects.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Demolition of Lake Creek Youth Camp
- Hazardous Materials Abatement at John Day Compound
- Government Quarters Remodel
- Idlewild Snow Park Construction and 2820 Road Paving

Partnerships Involved

- Lake Creek Youth Camp
- Grant County Snowballers
- Federal Highway Administration

New Bathroom at Idlewild Snow Park



Entrance of New Snow Park at FS 2820



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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Engineering (Aquatics) Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

- Construction of Sunflower Flats Culvert Replacement
 - Awarded in FY12 with Federal Highway Funding
 - Opened up more than two miles of spawning and rearing habitat
- Award of two additional Culvert Replacements for implementation in FY14
 - Ragged Creek Culvert Replacement
 - 2612365 Road Culvert Replacement (North Fork Bridge Creek)

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Continued support to the Regional Design Assistance Team

Partnerships Involved

- Application with CTWSRO for WWRI funding on the Windlass Creek Culvert

Key Projects in Progress

- Implementation of the two awarded projects will occur in 2014
- Additional sites are being surveyed and designed



Sunflower Flats, Before



Sunflower Flats, After

Funding:

Miles	Funding	Activity
2.0	HTAP/CMLG	Stream Habitat Enhancement

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Aquatics (Watershed & Fisheries) Accomplishments

Watershed Restoration

Core TARGET = 127 Acres
Core & Integ. TARGET = 9200 Acres

- **Blue Mountain Ranger:** 78 Acres
 - Camp Creek Tributaries (Large Woody Debris additions)
 - Camp Creek R1 Riparian Planting
 - MFJD River Avulsion Fix & Planting
- **Emigrant Creek Ranger District:** 49 Acres
 - SFJD (Venator Cr.) Juniper Thinning
 - Bulger Creek Rd. Decommission /Juniper Thinning
- **Prairie City Ranger District:** 12 Acres
 - Big and Lake Creek Riparian Planting

CORE TOTAL ACCOMPLISHED: 139 Acres
INTEG. TOTAL ACCOMPLISHED: 13060 Acres

Fisheries Restoration

Core TARGET = 6 miles
Core & Integ. TARGET = 35 miles

- **Blue Mountain Ranger District:** 29.5 miles
 - Core Target Accomplishment 11.0 miles
 - Integrated Accomplishment 18.5 miles
- **Emigrant Creek Ranger District:** 17.0 miles
 - Core Target Accomplishment 4.5 miles
 - Integrated Accomplishment 12.5 miles
- **Prairie City Ranger District:** 1.5 miles
 - Core Target Accomplishment 1.0 miles
 - Integrated Accomplishment 0.5 miles

CORE TOTAL ACCOMPLISHED: 16.5 miles
INTEG. TOTAL ACCOMPLISHED: 48.0 miles



Middle Fork John Day River Relocation Project – Avulsion Site before & after Construction



Regional Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative Program:

- Camp Creek Tributaries Large Woody Debris addition – accomplished four miles of in-stream restoration in the Camp Creek High Priority Watershed (West Fork Lick Creek, East Fork Camp Creek, & Upper Camp Creek). Riparian planting of 0.7 mi in Reach 1 of Camp Creek.
- Overall, as of FY2013 about 90% of the fish passage and stream restoration projects have been completed (Priority Projects 1-7 from the 2008 Watershed Action Plan). To date, no upland restoration projects (Priority Projects 8-14 from Watershed Action Plan) have been completed – exception being priority 11, monitoring. Thus, about 70% of the work in the WAP has been completed as of FY2013.



East Fork Camp Creek Large Woody Debris Additions (Before and After Photos).

Funding:

\$ 473,500 Total
\$ 237,000 (NFVW)
\$ 213,500 (NFWF)
\$ 23,000 (Partners)

Contacts:

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Silviculture Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

Silviculture personnel on the Malheur National Forest exceeded reforestation and timber stand improvement targets. This included 1,000 acres of target, in addition to the Forest's original, assumed at the request of the Regional Office to assist in meeting the Regional target, making the Malheur the leading contributor to the Regional target. Forest silviculture personnel assisted in project planning on Upper Pine, Wolf, Big Mosquito, Elk 16, Galena, Summit and Cliff/Knox projects, gathered formal stand exam data for Summit and Cliff/Knox project areas, assisted with management of fuels treatment and thinning projects and pruned the Parish Cabin Seed Orchard.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- **6,135 acres of tree regeneration, exceeding 6,111 acre target including:**
 - 3,985 acres of tree planting in Parish Cabin, Monument Rock, and Egley wildfire areas
 - 2,150 acres of stocking certification of naturally regenerated treatments (Certification of Natural Regeneration or CNR)
- **13,848 acres of precommercial thinning (PCT, 814% of target) including:**
 - 1,784 acres in plantations
 - 12,036 acres of naturally stocked stands using a combination of funding sources, including the first task order of the 10-year stewardship contract

Key Projects in Progress

- Planting 3,920 acres of Parish Cabin and Egley wildfires in 2014
- Vegetation collection in the Camp Creek watershed for future project analysis
- Continuing work on the Wolf, Big Mosquito, Elk 16 and Summit-Cliff projects
- Assisting in implementing the 10-year stewardship contract



Thinned ponderosa pine



Pre-commercially thinned plantation

Funding:

Acres	Funding	Activity
3,985	RTRT	Tree Planting
1,373	RTRT	CNR
768	NFVW	CNR
1,812	RTRT/NFVW	PCT plantations
12,036	SSCC/SRS2/NFVW/CFLN	PCT

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Botany Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

The Botany Program provided direct support to timber, silviculture, range management, recreation, wildlife, aquatics, engineering, special uses and hazardous fuels programs and projects. Botanical support covered a wide range of needs including: sensitive species surveys, habitat assessments, species identification, wetland delineation and inventory, stand exams and vegetation monitoring protocols.

A major focus of the botany program included providing direction, assistance, and funding in support of the Malheur's Accelerated Restoration Program and Range NEPA efforts.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Prepared 16 biological evaluations / specialist reports
- Intensely surveyed over 6,000 acres for rare plants
- Discovered 15 new rare plant sites (5 species)

Partnerships Involved:

Northwest Lichenologists, Carex Working Group, Stone Ecosurveys, Oregon Biodiversity Information Center, Oregon State University, University of Utah, UNLV.

Key Projects in Progress

- Initiated and implemented a long-term inventory and monitoring project to assess fen/peatland function and rare plant population trends in support of a new rangeland allotment management plan revision
- Inventoried over 500 acres and collected data at 725 vegetation sampling plots. Data obtained from this project will be informative and applicable to other forests across the western US
- Began implementation of a monitoring program for *Astragalus tegetarioides*, a globally rare sensitive species that may benefit from restoration activities associated with the Southern Blues CFLR Program
- Continued data collection for the historical Phenology Monitoring Station near Seneca, OR. This data will be used in concert with, and compared to, data from the 1930s and will be shared via national phenology databases and climate change networks.
 - Continued development of sensitive species habitat prediction models to increase efficiency and reduce project costs for botanical clearance surveys



Ophioglossum pusillum, a new and unexpected sensitive species recently discovered on the Malheur National

Botany Program Expenditures:

\$ 23,000	NFWF
\$ 6,000	NFVW
\$ 14,000	NFIM
\$ 12,500	WFHF

Contact: Joseph Rausch 541-575-3141



MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Native Plant Restoration Accomplishments

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- **Revegetation Projects** – Native plant materials were used for restoration, revegetation, and habitat improvement:
 - *Riparian Habitat*: over 2,000 hardwood cuttings, 300 lbs. of riparian seed mix, and 10 lbs. of native forb seed were used for stream restoration projects and culvert replacements projects that improved critical fish habitat (figures 1 and 2).
 - *Forage Improvements*: over 1,000 lbs. of upland seed mix and 400 bitterbrush seedlings were used for big game and rangeland habitat improvements associated with timber sales, fuels treatments, range allotments, and road decommissioning projects.
 - *Mining and Special Use Reclamation*: Over 300 lbs. of upland seed mix was provided to revegetate disturbed areas for over 15 mining and special use projects (e.g. utility corridors, telecommunication sites).
- **Seed Production** – 1775 lbs. of mountain brome, 95 lbs. of bluebunch wheatgrass, and 323 lbs. of Great Basin wildrye were procured and/or delivered from previous contracts. Additionally, contracts for the production of Great Basin wildrye, bottlebrush squirreltail, prairie junegrass, and bluebunch wheatgrass are currently in progress.
- **Seed Collection and Source Mapping** – Began a new effort to collect and map source populations for over 20 showy native forb species. Seed is collected in small quantities (<3 lbs.) to use in small, highly visible, disturbed sites (e.g. campgrounds, culvert replacements on primary roads, etc.) to improve ground cover and promote wildflower viewing areas.

Partnerships Involved

Benson Farms, Western Reclamation, Eastern Oregon Stewardship, Siskiyou BioSurvey, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, Oregon Department of Transportation, Carter Ranch, Southworth Ranch, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, The Nature Conservancy, Deschutes Basin Native Seed Bank



Worker planting willow stakes for a riparian habitat improvement project

2013 Treatment Expenditures:

\$ 35,000	Total
\$ 20,000	NFTM
\$ 10,000	NFVW
\$ 5,000	WFHF

Contact:

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Restoration efforts at a culvert replacement project



MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

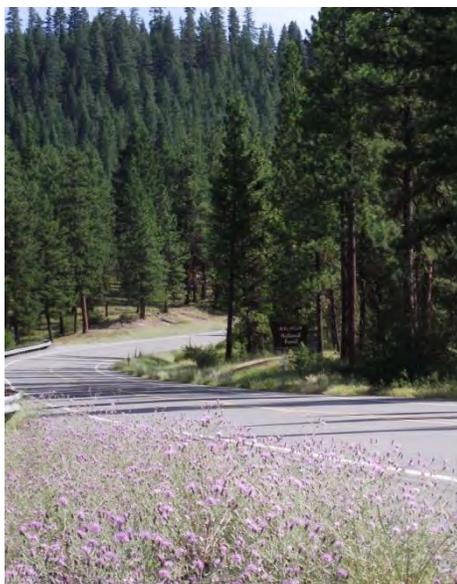
2013 Invasive Plant Accomplishments

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Treated 322 acres of invasive plant infestations (113 sites) with manual and mechanical methods (e.g. mowing, pulling, grubbing); accomplished 107% of assigned target (300 acres)
- Completed preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the *Malheur National Forest Site-Specific Invasive Plants Treatment Project*, which proposes treatment of invasive species using herbicides and biological controls. The DEIS was released for public review in November 2013
- Employed 10 local kids (2 youth crews) in partnership with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council to manually control and monitor invasive plant infestations in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) Area
- Developed a draft plan to monitor and control invasive plants in the CFLRP area
- Initiated and developed new partnerships with adjacent landowners, range allotment permittees, local governments, nonprofit organizations and other stakeholders to advance a more collaborative and efficient effort to eradicate, control and monitor invasive plants across the landscape

Partnerships Involved

North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Blue Mountain Collaborative Group, Harney County Collaborative Group, Grant County Soil and Water Conservation District, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Harney County, Grant County, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Transportation



Spotted knapweed infestation at Forest boundary

2013 Treatment Expenditures:

Acres	Fund Code	Activity
322	NFVW	Mechanical/manual treatments of invasive plants
269	NFVW/CFLN	Monitoring of invasive plant treatments

Contact: Joseph Rausch 541-575-3141



MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Wildlife/Threatened and Endangered Species

Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

In 2013, the Malheur National Forest Wildlife/Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) program in conjunction with partners made great strides in completing biological evaluations, wildlife surveys, terrestrial habitat improvements, road closures, fence maintenance and construction, and aspen grove protection.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Prepared 20 biological evaluations
- Surveyed over 20,274 acres for MIS and sensitive species
- Installed 40 screens on vault toilet vent stacks to prevent entry and entrapment of birds- to be continued in 2014
- Conducted 12 Naturewatch presentations
- Conducted surveys for White-Headed and Pileated woodpeckers over 2,164 acres
- Closed roads to provide an additional 3,877 acres of wildlife security
- Protected 174 acres of aspen stands through fencing and conifer removal
- Enhanced snag creation by the girdling of conifers within 75 acres of fenced aspen stands
- Conducted Breeding Bird surveys over 360 acres and Upland sandpiper breeding surveys over 1900 acres and 129 field hours from Grant County Bird Club members
- Installed 40 escape ramps for wildlife escape from range water troughs

Fund Code	Acres	Activity
NFWF	19,928	Surveys, road closures, aspen enhancements
Partners	4,442	Aspen enhancements, water developments
Non-NFWF	17,100	Prescribed Burning, surveys, timber management

Partners/Contractors: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Blue Mtn. Elk Initiative, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Range Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

The Malheur National Forest Rangeland Management Program administers term grazing permits on over one million acres of Forest lands. We strive to apply proper techniques and concepts to meet the goals and objectives established by the Forest Plan for soil, water and forage vegetation resources. With adaptive grazing management, we have been able to improve and restore riparian areas. Our objectives of allotment management plans are met by the proper management of rangeland resources.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Treated 322 acres of invasive plant species (all districts)
- Completed an Environmental Impact statement that encompassed 4 grazing allotments (Prairie City Ranger District)
- Accomplished detailed upland site monitoring on 308,000 acres (all districts)
- Accomplished monitoring of aquatic resources as required by National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service (primarily Prairie City and Blue Mountain Districts)
- Prepared Year End Grazing report as required by National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service (all districts)
- Provided grazing permittees with about \$47,000 in fencing materials and other range improvement materials (all districts)
- Gathered and disseminated monitoring results in support of future environmental analysis decisions needed for National Environmental Policy Act compliance(all districts)
- Provided support to accomplish reporting related to requests under Freedom of Information Act (all districts)
- Made adjustments in timing and duration of grazing schedules needed as a result of drought and other environmental conditions (all districts)
- Worked with local grazing permittees in preparation of annual grazing authorizations (all districts)
- Met with interested parties in public forums to gather input relating to Forest Plan Revision (all districts)
- Administered the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory (MCWHT) and gathered and removed 263 horses from private land within the MCWHT (Blue Mountain District)

Key Projects in Progress

- Summit Logan Grazing Authorization Project – 4 Allotments NEPA decisions
- Malheur River Range Aquatics Project – 2.5 miles of fence, four water developments NEPA decisions completed
- Several off site water developments partnered with the permittees and the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, including Title II Funds
- Two contracts let for fencing projects on the John Day Summit and Summit Creek
- Monitoring for consultation requirements, Grazing allotments administered to standard
- Site analysis and preparation of NEPA documents related to grazing on 9 allotments across forest



MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Heritage Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

We more than doubled the size of the seasonal Heritage work force to meet the needs of the Accelerated Restoration Program and the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) while meeting the National target of Managing the Heritage Program to Standard.

Specific Accomplishments in fiscal year 2013 include:

- Supported the Accelerated Restoration program through:
 - Section 106 field survey for the Big Mosquito, Summit Creek and Wolf Mountain vegetation management projects and the Central Malheur and Izee range NEPA projects
 - Completion of Section 106 inventory reports for the Upper Pine vegetation management project and the Summit Logan range NEPA project
- Supported the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) through:
 - Two CFLRP monitoring crews inspecting layout and monitoring implementation of CFLRP-funded thinning and hazardous fuels reduction project
- Met the NFRW-Heritage national target through:
 - Two PIT projects - 1 winter, 1 summer, 5 public outreach opportunities, 2 professional presentations, 200 Priority Heritage Assets managed to standard, 36 Priority Heritage Asset condition assessments completed, 8 Priority Heritage Asset permanent monitoring sites established
 - 160 acres of high-probability area survey (Malheur River), 18 volunteers contributed 1100 volunteer hours and hosted 2 graduate student interns

Partnerships Involved

Northwest Research Obsidian Studies Laboratory, Grant County Historical Museum, Missouri State University, Passport In Time volunteers, Burns Paiute Tribe, Warm Springs GeoVisions, University of Utah

Key Projects in Progress

Inventory and NEPA report preparation for the Big Mosquito, Summit Creek and Wolf Mountain vegetation management projects and the Central Malheur and Izee range NEPA projects.



Timber Cruise 1908

Funding:

Acres	Funding	Activity
4100	NFTM	Survey
4300	WFHF	Survey
500	CFLR	Monitoring

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Fire & Aviation Management (Fuels Program)

Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

The Accelerated Restoration program continued in earnest on the Malheur in 2013. Once again the forest fuels program exceeded all implementation targets with over 45,000 reported acres treated. This accomplishment is a direct result of the hard work and collaboration of forest staff and our external partners. In addition to the progress made on the ground, the forest has continued to pioneer in the stewardship arena by awarding a 10-year stewardship contract in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) area. With the award of this contract, the Forest can now use the value of the commercial products to help offset the cost of the fuels work as well as the other forest restoration activities.

5,159 acres of broadcast burning were accomplished in FY13



The number one priority for fuels treatments on the Forest continues to be reducing the hazardous fuels identified in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) for both Harney and Grant Counties. These treatments help create fire adapted communities by mitigating against fires coming from the forest onto adjacent lands as well as to protect the forest from fires coming in from those same lands. Projects in and out of the WUI also include aspen restoration, road decommissioning, tree thinning and stream and wildlife habitat improvement. In line with all aspects of the National Cohesive Strategy for Wildland Fire, reducing fuel loads also helps restore and maintain resilient landscapes and improve our response to wildfire.

The funding sources for treatments in 2013 show the integrated nature of fuels program work on the Malheur. In addition to appropriated funds in hazardous fuels, timber, and collaborative restoration accounts, brush disposal and Title II funds approved by Grant and Harney counties continue to support our program. Stewardship contracting receipts from previous years also assisted in implementation on restoration projects.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

Hazardous Fuels Reduction	
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	12,884 acres
Non-WUI	32,219 acres
Total Acres Treated	45,103 acres

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

While acreage treated in the WUI in 2013 was nearly identical to the acreage treated in the WUI in 2012, our non-WUI treated acres more than doubled. This was in large part to our Accelerated Restoration Program focus for 2013, which included many treatment areas in the heart of the forest.

The Accelerated Restoration efforts have also begun to positively affect the local community, with a decrease in area unemployment in Grant County overall in 2013.

Partnerships Involved

This strong commitment to integrated fuels and vegetation management reflects on the partnerships the forest has built with industry and environmental interests through the Blue Mountain Forest Partners, Harney County Restoration Collaborative, Grant and Harney County Commissioners and other neighbors in our area.

The awarding of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CLFR) funds was a positive reflection on our work together. 6,247 acres of treatment were completed in 2013 using these funds. The funds also assisted with monitoring and contracting work in the CLFR area.

Key Projects in Progress

Accelerated restoration work will continue through FY14 and beyond. The planning workload to generate implementation shelf stock is well underway, and District Rangers on each unit have major projects near completion for 2014, including Elk 16, Big Mosquito and Wolf. These projects are all designed to reduce future fire severity and intensity as well restore the right kind of fire to our landscapes. The fuels program continues to support these integrated projects with hazardous fuels dollars.

The Forest is also working on a programmatic Environmental Assessment for all aquatic restoration projects on the forest, with an expected decision for 2014. There will also be an effort to enlist an independent contractor renowned for its work in the planning arena to review the forest's planning process, identify areas to streamline it and provide training for forest Interdisciplinary Team members to improve turnaround times.

Blue Mountain Forest Partners Field trip

In 2014 the forest will also increase implementation and effectiveness monitoring within the CFLR area. This monitoring will provide feedback critical to adaptively managing and ensuring that our increased work is meeting the goals and objectives of the initiative.

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Fire & Aviation Management (Preparedness)

Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

Fiscal year 2013 was a busy year on all levels for the Malheur Fire and Aviation Management program. Fire suppression activity was slightly below average, with a total of 147 fires on the forest. Initial attack resources were successful, keeping persistently threatening fires small, with a high direct-attack success rate and an overall average fire size the lowest the forest has seen in several years. There were multiple simultaneous fires started by lightning in John Day during the FY13 season, and though they were in the Oregon Division of Forestry's primary response area forest resources assisted. A fire threatened Burns this year as well, with a similar support action by Malheur and BLM fire personnel there.

A small number of fires were successfully managed with indirect tactics and monitoring this summer. They were in areas with significant safety hazards, such as standing dead trees from recent wildfires. These fires were monitored largely by off-forest Wildland Fire Modules who not only provided great data, but helped fire staff refine management actions and build internal depth for future operations.

The program's leadership saw significant staffing turnover, most notably with the retirement of long-time Fire Staff Officer, Jeff Pendleton. Changes also included the Deputy Fire Staff and Forest Fuels positions at the Supervisor's Office, management of the Aviation program and one district FMO position. This all occurred during a busy fire season and in the midst of our Accelerated Restoration Program.

Incident 0127 in early August: The heavy dead fuel loading led managers to monitor the fire instead of putting fire crews at undue risk



Fire Management Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

As illustrated in the table on the following page, the average fire size was just under 6.5 acres in 2013. The majority of fires on the Malheur were contained at less than 0.1 acres. Also of note, only 12% of the fires were human caused, the lowest rate since 1996.

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

CY13 Wildfire Statistics for the Malheur NF

	Fires	Acres
Grand Total # Fires & Acres:	147	945.40
Human-Caused # Fires & Acres:	18	25.60
Lightning-Caused # Fires & Acres:	129	919.80
BM Total # Fires & Acres:	85	316.43
EC Total # Fires & Acres:	32	8.67
PC Total # Fires & Acres:	30	620.30

CY13 John Day Interagency Dispatch Center Statistics

	Fires	Acres
Grand Total # Fires & Acres:	242	14,507.04
Human-Caused # Fires & Acres:	35	985.37
Lightning-Caused # Fires & Acres:	207	13,521.67
Non-Wildland Fire Incidents:	316	
Off Unit Orders Processed:	585	
Within Unit Orders Processed:	1833	

Aviation Management Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

In 2013 the John Day Airbase celebrated their 40th year as an organized aviation program.

The Airbase utilized four exclusive-use aircraft. The aircraft and crew responded to initial attack and large fire incidents in 6 states throughout the West/Central United States. Collectively, the aircraft flew 713.8 hours without incident.

Flight time was evenly dispersed on and off the host unit. Water/retardant application, external/internal cargo delivery, initial attack and reconnaissance missions were successfully completed.

The Malheur Rappel Crew accomplished their training goals in 2013. Personnel were assigned to a wide range of incidents in various fuel types throughout the Western US. Members of the program completed 15 task books in 2013.

Total Flight Time Data for 58HJ, 90CH, 8TD

Total Flight Time	713.8	Cancelled mission flight time	.3
Flight time on home forest	90.7	Initial attack flight time	145.8
Flight time off home forest	306.4	Extended attack flight time	335
Federal project flight time	16.4	Training flight time	8.8
Non-federal project flight time	12.1	Aerial ignition flight time	6.1
T-413 total flight time	54.08	T-831 total flight time	40.75

-Continued-



MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

Partnerships Involved

The Malheur Fire and Aviation program worked closely with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Burns BLM District, Prineville BLM District, the Umatilla National Forest, Ochoco National Forest, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and local rural fire departments. The Forest continued to capitalize by sharing resources closely with ODF when possible. One permanent seasonal and two temporary dispatch positions funded by ODF work in the Interagency Dispatch Center. Oregon Department of Forestry also funds a reconnaissance plane which is also used as an air attack platform and a Type-2 helicopter which are based at the Grant County Airport and managed in concert with the Forest's Aviation program.

In 2013 there were interface fires in John Day and Burns that required integrated operations with many of our cooperators providing important learning opportunities to improve communication and coordination among agencies.

Key Projects in Progress

For FY14 Fire staffs are working to fill all overhead vacancies.

Based on the success of the managed fires in FY13, line officers and fire staff continue to find ways to approach fire starts outside of the WUI with the full range of tactics available. Fire staffs are developing a Safety Risk Assessment (SRA) that will be part of all size-ups for new starts to help with determine the best strategy based on firefighter safety. We are also working to build our operational capacity so in the future, we would not need a Wildland Fire Module, but our own fire crews have the versatility to fill that role. Finally, we are working with non-fire staff as well as our collaborative groups to build support for managing these unplanned fires to meet resource management objectives.

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Planning, Appeals, Litigation, FOIA Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

During FY13 the forest completed 18 documented NEPA decisions (Two Records of Decision, Three Decision Notices, and 13 Decision Memos). In preparation for increased vegetation management projects the forest filled three new NEPA positions and two vacated NEPA positions. We also added two NEPA specialists on the Forest Plan Revision Team, which will be very important in implementing the new Forest Plan once completed. To continue to increase the overall knowledge base on NEPA and Forest Policy, we provided and attended various NEPA trainings and included partners. Litigation workload has decreased by 50% but we continue to coordinate with attorneys on 3 litigation cases; one remains pending. FOIA workload has greatly increased in the past year with very large records requests.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- 5 NEPA decisions with non-significant Forest Plan Amendments
- Processed 26 FOIA requests
- Processed 3 NEPA Appeals or Objections and one 36-CFR-251 Appeal
- Reached settlement or completion on 2 litigation cases
- Provided NEPA trainings for the Forest/Paiute Tribes: Intro to NEPA, NEPA for Line Officers, and Cumulative Effects
- Continued with Forest Plan Revision
- Continued with Invasive Plants NEPA
- Provided Forest wide FOIA direction
- FOIA Training for District Contacts and FLT
- Wild and Scenic River Monitoring Report (draft)

Key Projects in Progress

- NEPA Quality Control Plan
- NEPA Efficiency Plan
- Additional NEPA Training
- Monthly NEPA program meetings and NEPA Café training
- Forest Plan Revision
- Invasive Plants EIS

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Administration/Budget Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

The forest administrative group provides quality office services and assistance to forest employees, which in turn enables them to perform their duties more efficiently. This year marked the beginning of a new financial system- which proved to be challenging- the added funding of Accelerated Restoration and the arrival and/or departure of many employees.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Cost Pool 1: covered all salaries, travel, training, TOS and supplies for Forest Line Officers (Forest Supervisor, Deputy Forest Supervisor, and District Rangers), Union representation, Civil Rights Coordinator, Safety Officer and Forest Supervisor's Administrative Assistant
- Cost Pool 2: provided funds for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) coordination
- Cost Pool 3: provided funds for Public Communications which includes the Forest Public Affairs Staff Officer and Public Affairs Specialist
- Cost Pool 4: provided funds for Support Services on the districts and at the Supervisor's Office
- Cost Pool 5: provided funding for all leases, rents, utilities, contracts, and general office supplies

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

2013 Public Affairs Accomplishments

Accomplishment Summary

The Malheur National Forest serves the public by meeting a diverse set of expectations. An effective Public Affairs program assures professional and quality external and internal communications. The Public Affairs Team contributes to creating a positive image of the Forest. The team is also a resource for the Forest Leadership Team, Line Officers and Program Staff. It serves to aid implementation of all Forest programs, as well as adding value to Forest management efforts in all program areas.

Specific Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2013 include:

- Briefing and Contacts Center – online reference center for key documents
- Community Relations and Events – guidance, coordination and support for Forest events and community projects
- Conservation Education – advice, coordination and support for Forest conservation education events
- External Communications – media requests, news coverage, briefing papers, key messages, news releases, press packets, fact sheets, news tips, market stories, “In Brief” publication to elected officials and key stakeholder
- Fire Communications – central source of fire information for employees, media and public, alert to sensitive political, social, tribal, and environmentally related incidents and kept the Forest, Incident Commander and other appropriate managers apprised of the issues
- Interagency Coordination – established, nurtured and maintained effective working relationships with Public Affairs personnel at other agencies and organizations
- Internal Communications – assured employees were abreast of major issues, programs and events; developed messages for the Forest Supervisor on key issues; produced monthly “Malheur Minute”, as well as quarterly forest newsletter, the “Tempo”
- Legislative Affairs – informed elected officials at local, state and federal levels of Forest issues/programs; helped ensure a positive attitude towards the Forest maintained collaborative relationships with keys contacts; created briefing papers on key issues and strived for consistent Forest messages
- Public Information – oversight of Forest publications (brochures, flyers, newsletters, etc.) and exhibits to ensure Forest standards were met, messages consistent, etc.
- Public Involvement – researched and analyzed public opinion; prepared public involvement strategies that identified potential affected interests, issues, key messages, communication tools and monitoring techniques; examined effectiveness of public involvement
- Strategic Communication – tracked Forest issues and public opinion, worked with Forest personnel to develop internal/external communication strategies on major issues and provided training, consultation and advice on presentations and meetings

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MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

Key Projects Completed or Participated in:

- National Wildlife Week
- Home and Garden Show
- Earth Day
- Outdoor School
- Family Fun Day
- National Get Outdoors Day
- Free Fishing Day
- National Trails Day
- Grant County Fair
- Harney County Fair
- Hunting Season Preparation
- National Public Lands Day
- Festival of Trees
- Timber Truckers Parade
- Grade Schools decorate SO Christmas tree

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USFS PNW Region 6
Malheur National Forest Contacts

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/>

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